### Union Calendar No. 312

113TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H.R. 10

[Report No. 113-423]

To amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2014

Mr. Kline (for himself and Mr. George Miller of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

April 29, 2014

Additional sponsors: Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Messer, Mr. Peters of California, Mr. Polis, Mr. Roe of Tennessee, Mr. Rokita, Mr. Bucshon, Mr. Desjarlais, Mr. Walberg, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Petri, Mr. Womack, Mr. Webster of Florida, Mrs. Brooks of Indiana, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Farenthold, Mr. Guthrie, Mr. Heck of Nevada, Mr. Hudson, and Mr. Wilson of South Carolina

APRIL 29, 2014

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 1, 2014]

## A BILL

To amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Success and Oppor-
- 5 tunity through Quality Charter Schools Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. REFERENCES.
- 7 Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in
- 8 this Act a section or other provision is amended or repealed,
- 9 such amendment or repeal shall be considered to be made
- 10 to that section or other provision of the Elementary and
- 11 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.).
- 12 SEC. 3. SUBPART HEADING; PURPOSE.
- 13 (a) Subpart Heading.—The heading for subpart 1
- 14 of part B of title V (20 U.S.C. 7221 et seq.) is amended
- 15 to read as follows: "Charter School Program".
- 16 (b) Purpose.—Section 5201 (20 U.S.C. 7221) is
- 17 amended to read as follows:
- 18 *"SEC. 5201. PURPOSE.*
- "It is the purpose of this subpart to—
- 20 "(1) improve the United States education system
- 21 and education opportunities for all Americans by
- 22 supporting innovation in public education in public
- 23 school settings that prepare students to compete and
- 24 contribute to the global economy;

"(2) provide financial assistance for the plan-
ning, program design, and initial implementation of
charter schools;
"(3) expand the number of high-quality charter
schools available to students across the Nation;
"(4) evaluate the impact of such schools on stu-
dent achievement, families, and communities, and
share best practices between charter schools and other
public schools;
"(5) encourage States to provide support to char-
ter schools for facilities financing in an amount more
nearly commensurate to the amount the States have
typically provided for traditional public schools;
"(6) improve student services to increase oppor-
tunities for students with disabilities, limited English
proficient students, and other traditionally under-
served students to attend charter schools and meet
$challenging\ State\ academic\ achievement\ standards;$
"(7) support efforts to strengthen the charter
school authorizing process to improve performance
management, including transparency, oversight, mon-
itoring, and evaluation of such schools; and
"(8) support quality accountability and trans-
parency in the operational performance of all author-

ized public chartering agencies, which include State

1	educational agencies, local educational agencies, and	
2	other authorizing entities.".	
3	SEC. 4. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.	
4	Section 5202 (20 U.S.C. 7221a) is amended to read	
5	as follows:	
6	"SEC. 5202. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.	
7	"(a) In General.—This subpart authorizes the Sec-	
8	retary to carry out a charter school program that supports	
9	charter schools that serve elementary school and secondary	
10	school students by—	
11	"(1) supporting the startup of charter schools,	
12	and the replication and expansion of high-quality	
13	$charter\ schools;$	
14	"(2) assisting charter schools in accessing credit	
15	to acquire and renovate facilities for school use; and	
16	"(3) carrying out national activities to sup-	
17	port—	
18	"(A) charter school development;	
19	"(B) the dissemination of best practices of	
20	charter schools for all schools;	
21	"(C) the evaluation of the impact of the pro-	
22	gram on schools participating in the program;	
23	and	
24	"(D) stronger charter school authorizing.	

1	"(b) Funding Allotment.—From the amount made
2	available under section 5211 for a fiscal year, the Secretary
3	shall—
4	"(1) reserve 12.5 percent to support charter
5	school facilities assistance under section 5204;
6	"(2) reserve not more than 10 percent to carry
7	out national activities under section 5205; and
8	"(3) use the remaining amount after the Sec-
9	retary reserves funds under paragraphs (1) and (2) to
10	carry out section 5203.
11	"(c) Prior Grants and Subgrants.—The recipient
12	of a grant or subgrant under this subpart or subpart 2,
13	as such subpart was in effect on the day before the date
14	of enactment of the Success and Opportunity through Qual-
15	ity Charter Schools Act, shall continue to receive funds in
16	accordance with the terms and conditions of such grant or
17	subgrant.".
18	SEC. 5. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER
19	SCHOOLS.
20	Section 5203 (20 U.S.C. 7221b) is amended to read
21	as follows:
22	"SEC. 5203. GRANTS TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER
23	SCHOOLS.
24	"(a) In General.—From the amount reserved under
25	section 5202(b)(3), the Secretary shall award grants to

1	State entities having applications approved pursuant to
2	subsection (f) to enable such entities to—
3	"(1) award subgrants to eligible applicants for
4	opening and preparing to operate—
5	"(A) new charter schools;
6	"(B) replicated, high-quality charter school
7	models; or
8	"(C) expanded, high-quality charter schools;
9	and
10	"(2) provide technical assistance to eligible ap-
11	plicants and authorized public chartering agencies in
12	carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1)
13	and work with authorized public chartering agencies
14	in the State to improve authorizing quality.
15	"(b) State Uses of Funds.—
16	"(1) In general.—A State entity receiving a
17	grant under this section shall—
18	"(A) use not less than 90 percent of the
19	grant funds to award subgrants to eligible appli-
20	cants, in accordance with the quality charter
21	school program described in the State entity's
22	application approved pursuant to subsection (f),
23	for the purposes described in subparagraphs (A)
24	through $(C)$ of subsection $(a)(1)$ ;

1	"(B) reserve not less than 7 percent of such
2	funds to carry out the activities described in sub-
3	section $(a)(2)$ ; and
4	"(C) reserve not more than 3 percent of such
5	funds for administrative costs which may in-
6	clude technical assistance.
7	"(2) Contracts and Grants.—A State entity
8	may use a grant received under this section to carry
9	out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and
10	(B) of paragraph (1) directly or through grants, con-
11	tracts, or cooperative agreements.
12	"(3) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this
13	Act shall prohibit the Secretary from awarding grants
14	to States that use a weighted lottery to give slightly
15	better chances for admission to all, or a subset of, edu-
16	cationally disadvantaged students if—
17	"(A) the use of weighted lotteries in favor of
18	such students is not prohibited by State law, and
19	such State law is consistent with laws described
20	in section $5210(1)(G)$ ; and
21	"(B) such weighted lotteries are not used for
22	the purpose of creating schools exclusively to
23	serve a particular subset of students.
24	"(c) Program Periods; Peer Review; Grant Num-
25	RER AND AMOUNT: DIVERSITY OF PROJECTS: WAIVERS —

1	"(1) Program periods.—
2	"(A) Grants.—A grant awarded by the
3	Secretary to a State entity under this section
4	shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.
5	"(B) Subgrants.—A subgrant awarded by
6	a State entity under this section shall be for a
7	period of not more than 5 years, of which an eli-
8	gible applicant may use not more than 18
9	months for planning and program design.
10	"(2) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary, and each
11	State entity receiving a grant under this section, shall
12	use a peer review process to review applications for
13	assistance under this section.
14	"(3) Grant Awards.—The Secretary shall—
15	"(A) for each fiscal year for which funds are
16	appropriated under section 5211—
17	"(i) award not less than 3 grants
18	under this section;
19	"(ii) wholly fund each grant awarded
20	under this section, without making continu-
21	ation awards; and
22	"(iii) fully obligate the funds appro-
23	priated for the purpose of awarding grants
24	under this section in the fiscal year for
25	which such grants are awarded; and

1	"(B) midway through the grant period of
2	each grant awarded under this section to a State
3	entity, review the grant to determine whether the
4	State entity will meet the agreed upon uses of
5	funds in the State entity's application, and if
6	not, reallot the grant funds that will not be used
7	for such agreed upon uses of funds to other State
8	entities during the succeeding grant competition
9	under this section.
10	"(4) Diversity of projects.—Each State enti-
11	ty receiving a grant under this section shall award
12	subgrants under this section in a manner that, to the
13	extent possible, ensures that such subgrants—
14	"(A) are distributed throughout different
15	areas, including urban, suburban, and rural
16	areas; and
17	"(B) will assist charter schools representing
18	a variety of educational approaches.
19	"(5) Waivers.—The Secretary may waive any
20	statutory or regulatory requirement over which the
21	Secretary exercises administrative authority except
22	any such requirement relating to the elements of a
23	charter school described in section 5210(1), if—
24	"(A) the waiver is requested in an approved
25	application under this section; and

1	"(B) the Secretary determines that granting
2	such a waiver will promote the purpose of this
3	subpart.
4	"(d) Limitations.—
5	"(1) Grants.—A State entity may not receive
6	more than 1 grant under this section for a 5-year pe-
7	riod.
8	"(2) Subgrants.—An eligible applicant may
9	not receive more than 1 subgrant under this section
10	per individual charter school for a 5-year period, un-
11	less the eligible applicant demonstrates to the State
12	entity not less than 3 years of improved educational
13	results in the areas described in subparagraphs (A)
14	and (D) of section 5210(8) for students enrolled in
15	such charter school.
16	"(e) Applications.—A State entity desiring to receive
17	a grant under this section shall submit an application to
18	the Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Sec-
19	retary may require. The application shall include the fol-
20	lowing:
21	"(1) Description of Program.—A description
22	of the State entity's objectives under this section and
23	how the objectives of the program will be carried out,
24	including a description—
25	"(A) of how the State entity—

1	"(i) will support the opening of new
2	charter schools, replicated, high-quality
3	charter school models, or expanded, high-
4	quality charter schools, and a description of
5	the proposed number of each type of charter
6	school or model, if applicable, to be opened
7	under the State entity's program;
8	"(ii) will inform eligible charter
9	schools, developers, and authorized public
10	chartering agencies of the availability of
11	funds under the program;
12	"(iii) will work with eligible appli-
13	cants to ensure that the eligible applicants
14	access all Federal funds that they are eligi-
15	ble to receive, and help the charter schools
16	supported by the applicants and the stu-
17	dents attending the charter schools—
18	"(I) participate in the Federal
19	programs in which the schools and stu-
20	dents are eligible to participate;
21	"(II) receive the commensurate
22	share of Federal funds the schools and
23	students are eligible to receive under
24	such programs; and

1	"(III) meet the needs of students
2	served under such programs, including
3	student with disabilities and English
4	learners;
5	"(iv) will have clear plans and proce-
6	dures to assist students enrolled in a charter
7	school that closes or loses its charter to at-
8	tend other high-quality schools;
9	"(v) in the case in which the State en-
10	tity is not a State educational agency—
11	"(I) will work with the State edu-
12	cational agency and the charter schools
13	in the State to maximize charter school
14	participation in Federal and State
15	programs for charter schools; and
16	"(II) will work with the State
17	educational agency to adequately oper-
18	ate the State entity's program under
19	this section, where applicable;
20	"(vi) will ensure each eligible appli-
21	cant that receives a subgrant under the
22	State entity's program to open and prepare
23	to operate a new charter school, a rep-
24	licated, high-quality charter school model,

1	or an expanded, high-quality charter
2	school—
3	"(I) will ensure such school or
4	model meets the requirements under
5	section 5210(1); and
6	"(II) is prepared to continue to
7	operate such school or model, in a
8	manner consistent with the eligible ap-
9	plicant's application, after the
10	subgrant funds have expired;
11	"(vii) will support charter schools in
12	local educational agencies with large num-
13	bers of schools identified by the State for
14	improvement;
15	"(viii) will work with charter schools
16	to promote inclusion of all students and
17	support all students once they are enrolled
18	to promote retention;
19	"(ix) will work with charter schools on
20	recruitment practices, including efforts to
21	engage groups that may otherwise have lim-
22	ited opportunities to participate in charter
23	schools, and to ensure such schools do not
24	have in effect policies or procedures that
25	may create barriers to enrollment of stu-

1	dents, including educationally disadvan-
2	taged students, and are in compliance with
3	all Federal and State laws on enrollment
4	practices;
5	"(x) will share best and promising
6	practices between charter schools and other
7	public schools, including, where appro-
8	priate, instruction and professional develop-
9	ment in core academic subjects, and science,
10	technology, engineering, and math edu-
11	cation, including computer science;
12	"(xi) will ensure the charter schools re-
13	ceiving funds under the State entity's pro-
14	gram meet the educational needs of their
15	students, including students with disabil-
16	ities and English learners;
17	"(xii) will support efforts to increase
18	quality initiatives, including meeting the
19	quality authorizing elements described in
20	paragraph (2)(E);
21	"(xiii) in the case of a State entity not
22	described in clause (xiv), will provide over-
23	sight of authorizing activity, including how
24	the State will approve, actively monitor,
25	and re-approve or revoke the authority of

1	an authorized public chartering agency
2	based on the performance of the charter
3	schools authorized by such agency in the
4	areas of student achievement, student safety,
5	financial management, and compliance
6	with all applicable statutes and regulations;
7	and
8	"(xiv) in the case of a State entity de-
9	fined in subsection (i)(4), will work with
10	the State to provide assistance to and over-
11	sight of authorized public chartering agen-
12	cies for authorizing activity described in
13	clause (xiii);
14	"(B) of the extent to which the State enti-
15	<i>ty</i> —
16	"(i) is able to meet and carry out the
17	priorities listed in subsection (f)(2); and
18	"(ii) is working to develop or strength-
19	en a cohesive statewide system to support
20	the opening of new charter schools, rep-
21	licated, high-quality charter school models,
22	or expanded, high-quality charter schools;
23	"(C) of how the State entity will carry out
24	the subgrant competition, including—

1	"(i) a description of the application
2	each eligible applicant desiring to receive a
3	subgrant will submit, including—
4	"(I) a description of the roles and
5	responsibilities of eligible applicants,
6	partner organizations, and manage-
7	ment organizations, including the ad-
8	ministrative and contractual roles and
9	responsibilities;
10	"(II) a description of the quality
11	controls agreed to between the eligible
12	applicant and the authorized public
13	chartering agency involved, such as a
14	contract or performance agreement,
15	how a school's performance in the
16	State's academic accountability system
17	will be a primary factor for renewal or
18	revocation of the school's charter, and
19	how the State entity and the author-
20	ized public chartering agency involved
21	will reserve the right to revoke or not
22	renew a school's charter based on fi-
23	nancial, structural, or operational fac-
24	tors involving the management of the
25	school;

1	"(III) a description of how the eli-
2	gible applicant will solicit and con-
3	sider input from parents and other
4	members of the community on the im-
5	plementation and operation of each
6	charter school receiving funds under
7	the State entity's program; and
8	"(IV) a description of the planned
9	activities and expenditures for the
10	subgrant funds for purposes of opening
11	and preparing to operate a new char-
12	ter school, a replicated, high-quality
13	charter school model, or an expanded,
14	high-quality charter school, and how
15	the school or model will maintain fi-
16	nancial sustainability after the end of
17	the subgrant period; and
18	"(ii) a description of how the State en-
19	tity will review applications;
20	"(D) in the case of an entity that partners
21	with an outside organization to carry out the
22	State entity's quality charter school program, in
23	whole or in part, of the roles and responsibilities
24	of this partner:

1	"(E) of how the State entity will help the
2	charter schools receiving funds under the State
3	entity's program consider the transportation
4	needs of the schools' students; and
5	"(F) of how the State entity will support
6	diverse charter school models, including models
7	that serve rural communities.
8	"(2) Assurances.—Assurances, including a de-
9	scription of how the assurances will be met, that—
10	"(A) each charter school receiving funds
11	under the State entity's program will have a
12	high degree of autonomy over budget and oper-
13	ations;
14	"(B) the State entity will support charter
15	schools in meeting the educational needs of their
16	students as described in paragraph $(1)(A)(x)$ ;
17	"(C) the State entity will ensure that the
18	authorized public chartering agency of any char-
19	ter school that receives funds under the State en-
20	tity's program—
21	"(i) adequately monitors each charter
22	school in recruiting, enrolling, and meeting
23	the needs of all students, including students
24	with disabilities and English learners; and

1	"(ii) ensures that each charter school
2	solicits and considers input from parents
3	and other members of the community on the
4	implementation and operation of the school;
5	"(D) the State entity will provide adequate
6	technical assistance to eligible applicants to—
7	"(i) meet the objectives described in
8	clauses (vii) and (viii) of paragraph (1)(A)
9	and paragraph (2)(B); and
10	"(ii) recruit, enroll, and retain tradi-
11	tionally underserved students, including
12	students with disabilities and English
13	learners, at rates similar to traditional
14	public schools;
15	"(E) the State entity will promote quality
16	authorizing, such as through providing technical
17	assistance and supporting all authorized public
18	chartering agencies in the State to improve the
19	oversight of their charter schools, including by—
20	"(i) assessing annual performance data
21	of the schools, including, as appropriate,
22	graduation rates and student academic
23	growth;
24	"(ii) reviewing the schools' inde-
25	pendent, annual audits of financial state-

1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
1	ments conducted in accordance with gen-
2	erally accepted accounting principles, and
3	ensuring any such audits are publically re-
4	ported; and
5	"(iii) holding charter schools account-
6	able to the academic, financial, and oper-
7	ational quality controls agreed to between
8	the charter school and the authorized public
9	chartering agency involved, such as through
10	renewal, non-renewal, or revocation of the
11	school's charter;
12	"(F) the State entity will work to ensure
13	that charter schools are included with the tradi-
14	tional public schools in decision-making about
15	the public school system in the State; and
16	"(G) the State entity will ensure that each
17	charter school in the State make publicly avail-
18	able, consistent with the dissemination require-
19	ments of the annual State report card, informa-
20	tion to help parents make informed decisions
21	about the education options available to their
22	children, including information on the edu-
23	cational program, student support services, and

annual performance and enrollment data for the

1 groups of students described in section 2 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II).

"(3) REQUESTS FOR WAIVERS.—A request and justification for waivers of any Federal statutory or regulatory provisions that the State entity believes are necessary for the successful operation of the charter schools that will receive funds under the State entity's program under this section, and a description of any State or local rules, generally applicable to public schools, that will be waived, or otherwise not apply to such schools or, in the case of a State entity defined in subsection (i)(4), a description of how the State entity will work with the State to request necessary waivers where applicable.

### "(f) Selection Criteria; Priority.—

"(1) Selection Criteria.—The Secretary shall award grants to State entities under this section on the basis of the quality of the applications submitted under subsection (e), after taking into consideration—

"(A) the degree of flexibility afforded by the State's public charter school law and how the State entity will work to maximize the flexibility provided to charter schools under the law;

1	"(B) the ambitiousness of the State entity's
2	objectives for the quality charter school program
3	carried out under this section;
4	"(C) the quality of the strategy for assessing
5	achievement of those objectives;
6	"(D) the likelihood that the eligible appli-
7	cants receiving subgrants under the program will
8	meet those objectives and improve educational re-
9	sults for students;
10	"(E) the State entity's plan to—
11	"(i) adequately monitor the eligible ap-
12	plicants receiving subgrants under the State
13	entity's program;
14	"(ii) work with the authorized public
15	chartering agencies involved to avoid dupli-
16	cation of work for the charter schools and
17	authorized public chartering agencies; and
18	"(iii) provide adequate technical as-
19	sistance and support for—
20	"(I) the charter schools receiving
21	funds under the State entity's pro-
22	gram; and
23	"(II) quality authorizing efforts
24	in the State; and

1	"(F) the State entity's plan to solicit and
2	consider input from parents and other members
3	of the community on the implementation and op-
4	eration of the charter schools in the State.
5	"(2) Priority.—In awarding grants under this
6	section, the Secretary shall give priority to State enti-
7	ties to the extent that they meet the following criteria:
8	"(A) In the case of a State entity located in
9	a State that allows an entity other than a local
10	educational agency to be an authorized public
11	chartering agency, the State has a quality au-
12	thorized public chartering agency that is an enti-
13	ty other than a local educational agency.
14	"(B) The State entity is located in a State
15	that does not impose any limitation on the num-
16	ber or percentage of charter schools that may
17	exist or the number or percentage of students
18	that may attend charter schools in the State.
19	"(C) The State entity is located in a State
20	that ensures equitable financing, as compared to
21	traditional public schools, for charter schools and
22	students in a prompt manner.
23	"(D) The State entity is located in a State
24	that uses charter schools and best practices from

1	charter schools to help improve struggling schools
2	and local educational agencies.
3	"(E) The State entity partners with an or-
4	ganization that has a demonstrated record of
5	success in developing management organizations
6	to support the development of charter schools in
7	the State.
8	"(F) The State entity supports charter
9	schools that support at-risk students through ac-
10	tivities such as dropout prevention or dropout
11	recovery.
12	"(G) The State entity authorizes all charter
13	schools in the State to serve as school food au-
14	thorities.
15	"(H) The State entity has taken steps to en-
16	sure that all authorizing public chartering agen-
17	cies implement best practices for charter school
18	authorizing.
19	"(g) Local Uses of Funds.—An eligible applicant
20	receiving a subgrant under this section shall use such funds
21	to carry out activities related to opening and preparing to
22	operate a new charter school, a replicated, high-quality
23	charter school model, or an expanded, high-quality charter
24	school, such as—

1	"(1) preparing teachers and school leaders, in-
2	cluding through professional development;
3	"(2) acquiring equipment, educational materials,
4	and supplies; and
5	"(3) necessary renovations and minor facilities
6	repairs (excluding construction).
7	"(h) Reporting Requirements.—Each State entity
8	receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
9	retary, at the end of the third year of the 5-year grant pe-
10	riod and at the end of such grant period, a report on—
11	"(1) the number of students served by each
12	subgrant awarded under this section and, if applica-
13	ble, how many new students were served during each
14	year of the subgrant period;
15	"(2) the progress the State entity made toward
16	meeting the priorities described in subsection $(f)(2)$ ,
17	as applicable;
18	"(3) how the State entity met the objectives of the
19	quality charter school program described in the State
20	entity's application under subsection (e);
21	"(4) how the State entity complied with, and en-
22	sured that eligible applicants complied with, the as-
23	surances described in the State entity's application;
24	"(5) how the State entity worked with authorized
25	public chartering agencies, including how the agencies

1	worked with the management company or leadership
2	of the schools that received subgrants under this sec-
3	tion; and
4	"(6) the number of subgrants awarded under this
5	section to carry out each of the following:
6	"(A) The opening of new charter schools.
7	"(B) The opening of replicated, high-quality
8	charter school models.
9	"(C) The opening of expanded, high-quality
10	charter schools.
11	"(i) State Entity Defined.—For purposes of this
12	section, the term 'State entity' means—
13	"(1) a State educational agency;
14	"(2) a State charter school board;
15	"(3) a Governor of a State; or
16	"(4) a charter school support organization.".
17	SEC. 6. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.
18	Section 5204 (20 U.S.C. 7221c) is amended to read
19	as follows:
20	"SEC. 5204. FACILITIES FINANCING ASSISTANCE.
21	"(a) Grants to Eligible Entities.—
22	"(1) In general.—From the amount reserved
23	under section 5202(b)(1), the Secretary shall not use
24	less than 50 percent to award grants to eligible enti-
25	ties that have the highest-quality applications ap-

1	proved under subsection (d), after considering the di-
2	versity of such applications, to demonstrate innova-
3	tive methods of assisting charter schools to address the
4	cost of acquiring, constructing, and renovating facili-
5	ties by enhancing the availability of loans or bond fi-
6	nancing.
7	"(2) Eligible entity defined.—For purposes
8	of this section, the term 'eligible entity' means—
9	"(A) a public entity, such as a State or
10	$local\ governmental\ entity;$
11	"(B) a private nonprofit entity; or
12	"(C) a consortium of entities described in
13	subparagraphs (A) and (B).
14	"(b) Grantee Selection.—The Secretary shall
15	evaluate each application submitted under subsection (d),
16	and shall determine whether the application is sufficient
17	to merit approval.
18	"(c) Grant Characteristics.—Grants under sub-
19	section (a) shall be of a sufficient size, scope, and quality
20	so as to ensure an effective demonstration of an innovative
21	means of enhancing credit for the financing of charter
22	school acquisition, construction, or renovation.
23	"(d) Applications.—
24	"(1) In general.—To receive a grant under
25	subsection (a), an eligible entity shall submit to the

1	Secretary an application in such form as the Sec-
2	retary may reasonably require.
3	"(2) Contents.—An application submitted
4	under paragraph (1) shall contain—
5	"(A) a statement identifying the activities
6	proposed to be undertaken with funds received
7	under subsection (a), including how the eligible
8	entity will determine which charter schools will
9	receive assistance, and how much and what types
10	of assistance charter schools will receive;
11	"(B) a description of the involvement of
12	charter schools in the application's development
13	and the design of the proposed activities;
14	"(C) a description of the eligible entity's ex-
15	pertise in capital market financing;
16	"(D) a description of how the proposed ac-
17	tivities will leverage the maximum amount of
18	private-sector financing capital relative to the
19	amount of public funding used and otherwise en-
20	hance credit available to charter schools, includ-
21	ing how the eligible entity will offer a combina-
22	tion of rates and terms more favorable than the
23	rates and terms that a charter school could re-
24	ceive without assistance from the eligible entity
25	under this section:

1 "(E) a description of how the eligible entity 2 possesses sufficient expertise in education to evaluate the likelihood of success of a charter 3 4 school program for which facilities financing is 5 sought; and 6 "(F) in the case of an application submitted by a State governmental entity, a description of 7 8 the actions that the entity has taken, or will 9 take, to ensure that charter schools within the 10 State receive the funding the charter schools need 11 to have adequate facilities. 12 "(e) Charter School Objectives.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall use the funds deposited in the reserve account established under subsection 14 15 (f) to assist one or more charter schools to access private sector capital to accomplish one or more of the following 17 objectives:

- "(1) The acquisition (by purchase, lease, donation, or otherwise) of an interest (including an interest held by a third party for the benefit of a charter school) in improved or unimproved real property that is necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.
- 24 "(2) The construction of new facilities, or the 25 renovation, repair, or alteration of existing facilities,

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necessary to commence or continue the operation of a
 charter school.

"(3) The predevelopment costs required to assess sites for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2) and which are necessary to commence or continue the operation of a charter school.

### "(f) Reserve Account.—

"(1) USE OF FUNDS.—To assist charter schools to accomplish the objectives described in subsection (e), an eligible entity receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with State and local law, directly or indirectly, alone or in collaboration with others, deposit the funds received under subsection (a) (other than funds used for administrative costs in accordance with subsection (g)) in a reserve account established and maintained by the eligible entity for this purpose. Amounts deposited in such account shall be used by the eligible entity for one or more of the following purposes:

"(A) Guaranteeing, insuring, and reinsuring bonds, notes, evidences of debt, loans, and interests therein, the proceeds of which are used for an objective described in subsection (e).

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1	"(B) Guaranteeing and insuring leases of
2	personal and real property for an objective de-
3	scribed in subsection (e).
4	"(C) Facilitating financing by identifying
5	potential lending sources, encouraging private
6	lending, and other similar activities that directly
7	promote lending to, or for the benefit of, charter
8	schools.
9	"(D) Facilitating the issuance of bonds by
10	charter schools, or by other public entities for the
11	benefit of charter schools, by providing technical,
12	administrative, and other appropriate assistance
13	(including the recruitment of bond counsel, un-
14	derwriters, and potential investors and the con-
15	solidation of multiple charter school projects
16	within a single bond issue).
17	"(2) Investment.—Funds received under this
18	section and deposited in the reserve account estab-
19	lished under paragraph (1) shall be invested in obli-
20	gations issued or guaranteed by the United States or
21	a State, or in other similarly low-risk securities.
22	"(3) Reinvestment of earnings.—Any earn-
23	ings on funds received under subsection (a) shall be

 $deposited \ in \ the \ reserve \ account \ established \ under$ 

1	paragraph (1) and used in accordance with such
2	paragraph.
3	"(g) Limitation on Administrative Costs.—An eli-
4	gible entity may use not more than 2.5 percent of the funds
5	received under subsection (a) for the administrative costs
6	of carrying out its responsibilities under this section (ex-
7	cluding subsection (k)).
8	"(h) Audits and Reports.—
9	"(1) Financial record maintenance and
10	AUDIT.—The financial records of each eligible entity
11	receiving a grant under subsection (a) shall be main-
12	tained in accordance with generally accepted account-
13	ing principles and shall be subject to an annual audit
14	by an independent public accountant.
15	"(2) Reports.—
16	"(A) Grantee annual reports.—Each el-
17	igible entity receiving a grant under subsection
18	(a) annually shall submit to the Secretary a re-
19	port of its operations and activities under this
20	section.
21	"(B) Contents.—Each annual report sub-
22	mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—
23	"(i) a copy of the most recent financial
24	statements, and any accompanying opinion
25	on such statements, prepared by the inde-

1	pendent public accountant reviewing the fi-
2	nancial records of the eligible entity;
3	"(ii) a copy of any report made on an
4	audit of the financial records of the eligible
5	entity that was conducted under paragraph
6	(1) during the reporting period;
7	"(iii) an evaluation by the eligible en-
8	tity of the effectiveness of its use of the Fed-
9	eral funds provided under subsection (a) in
10	leveraging private funds;
11	"(iv) a listing and description of the
12	charter schools served during the reporting
13	period, including the amount of funds used
14	by each school, the type of project facilitated
15	by the grant, and the type of assistance pro-
16	vided to the charter schools;
17	"(v) a description of the activities car-
18	ried out by the eligible entity to assist char-
19	ter schools in meeting the objectives set forth
20	in subsection (e); and
21	"(vi) a description of the characteris-
22	tics of lenders and other financial institu-
23	tions participating in the activities under-
24	taken by the eligible entity under this sec-

1	tion (excluding subsection (k)) during the
2	$reporting\ period.$
3	"(C) Secretarial Report.—The Sec-
4	retary shall review the reports submitted under
5	subparagraph (A) and shall provide a com-
6	prehensive annual report to Congress on the ac-
7	tivities conducted under this section (excluding
8	subsection (k)).
9	"(i) No Full Faith and Credit for Grantee Ob-
10	LIGATION.—No financial obligation of an eligible entity en-
11	tered into pursuant to this section (such as an obligation
12	under a guarantee, bond, note, evidence of debt, or loan)
13	shall be an obligation of, or guaranteed in any respect by,
14	the United States. The full faith and credit of the United
15	States is not pledged to the payment of funds which may
16	be required to be paid under any obligation made by an
17	eligible entity pursuant to any provision of this section.
18	"(j) Recovery of Funds.—
19	"(1) In general.—The Secretary, in accordance
20	with chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code, shall
21	collect—
22	"(A) all of the funds in a reserve account es-
23	tablished by an eligible entity under subsection
24	(f)(1) if the Secretary determines, not earlier
25	than 2 years after the date on which the eligible

- entity first received funds under this section (excluding subsection (k)), that the eligible entity

  has failed to make substantial progress in carrying out the purposes described in subsection

  (f)(1); or
  - "(B) all or a portion of the funds in a reserve account established by an eligible entity under subsection (f)(1) if the Secretary determines that the eligible entity has permanently ceased to use all or a portion of the funds in such account to accomplish any purpose described in subsection (f)(1).
  - "(2) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall not exercise the authority provided in paragraph (1) to collect from any eligible entity any funds that are being properly used to achieve one or more of the purposes described in subsection (f)(1).
  - "(3) PROCEDURES.—The provisions of sections
    451, 452, and 458 of the General Education Provisions Act 20 U.S.C. 124, 1234a, 1234g shall apply to
    the recovery of funds under paragraph (1).
  - "(4) Construction.—This subsection shall not be construed to impair or affect the authority of the Secretary to recover funds under part D of the Gen-

1	eral Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234 et
2	seq.).
3	"(k) Per-pupil Facilities Aid Program.—
4	"(1) Definition of Per-Pupil Facilities aid
5	PROGRAM.—In this subsection, the term 'per-pupil fa-
6	cilities aid program' means a program in which a
7	State makes payments, on a per-pupil basis, to char-
8	ter schools to provide the schools with financing—
9	"(A) that is dedicated solely for funding
10	charter school facilities; or
11	"(B) a portion of which is dedicated for
12	funding charter school facilities.
13	"(2) Grants.—
14	"(A) In General.—From the amount
15	under section 5202(b)(1) remaining after the
16	Secretary makes grants under subsection (a), the
17	Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive
18	basis, to States to pay for the Federal share of
19	the cost of establishing or enhancing, and admin-
20	istering per-pupil facilities aid programs.
21	"(B) Period.—The Secretary shall award
22	grants under this subsection for periods of not
23	more than 5 years.
24	"(C) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share
25	of the cost described in subparagraph (A) for a

1	per-pupil facilities aid program shall be not
2	more than—
3	"(i) 90 percent of the cost, for the first
4	fiscal year for which the program receives
5	assistance under this subsection;
6	"(ii) 80 percent in the second such
7	year;
8	"(iii) 60 percent in the third such
9	year;
10	"(iv) 40 percent in the fourth such
11	year; and
12	"(v) 20 percent in the fifth such year.
13	"(D) State share.—A State receiving a
14	grant under this subsection may partner with 1
15	or more organizations to provide up to 50 per-
16	cent of the State share of the cost of establishing
17	or enhancing, and administering the per-pupil
18	facilities aid program.
19	"(E) Multiple Grants.—A State may re-
20	ceive more than 1 grant under this subsection, so
21	long as the amount of such funds provided to
22	charter schools increases with each successive
23	grant.
24	"(3) Use of funds.—

1	"(A) In general.—A State that receives a
2	grant under this subsection shall use the funds
3	made available through the grant to establish or
4	enhance, and administer, a per-pupil facilities
5	aid program for charter schools in the State of
6	the applicant.
7	"(B) Evaluations; technical assist-
8	ANCE; DISSEMINATION.—From the amount made
9	available to a State through a grant under this
10	subsection for a fiscal year, the State may re-
11	serve not more than 5 percent to carry out eval-
12	uations, to provide technical assistance, and to
13	$disseminate\ information.$
14	"(C) Supplement, not supplant.—Funds
15	made available under this subsection shall be
16	used to supplement, and not supplant, State and
17	local public funds expended to provide per pupil
18	facilities aid programs, operations financing
19	programs, or other programs, for charter schools.
20	"(4) Requirements.—
21	"(A) Voluntary participation.—No State
22	may be required to participate in a program
23	carried out under this subsection.
24	"(B) State law.—

1	"(i) In general.—Except as provided
2	in clause (ii), to be eligible to receive a
3	grant under this subsection, a State shall
4	establish or enhance, and administer, a per-
5	pupil facilities aid program for charter
6	schools in the State, that—
7	"(I) is specified in State law; and
8	"(II) provides annual financing,
9	on a per-pupil basis, for charter school
10	facilities.
11	"(ii) Special rule.—Notwith-
12	standing clause (i), a State that is required
13	under State law to provide its charter
14	schools with access to adequate facility
15	space, but which does not have a per-pupil
16	facilities aid program for charter schools
17	specified in State law, may be eligible to re-
18	ceive a grant under this subsection if the
19	State agrees to use the funds to develop a
20	per-pupil facilities aid program consistent
21	with the requirements of this subsection.
22	"(5) Applications.—To be eligible to receive a
23	grant under this subsection, a State shall submit an
24	application to the Secretary at such time, in such

1	manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2	retary may require.".
3	SEC. 7. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
4	Section 5205 (20 U.S.C. 7221d) is amended to read
5	as follows:
6	"SEC. 5205. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.
7	"(a) In General.—From the amount reserved under
8	section 5202(b)(2), the Secretary shall—
9	"(1) use not less than 75 percent of such funds
10	to award grants in accordance with subsection (b);
11	and
12	"(2) use not more than 25 percent of such funds
13	to—
14	"(A) provide technical assistance to State
15	entities in awarding subgrants under section
16	5203, and eligible entities and States receiving
17	grants under section 5204;
18	"(B) disseminate best practices; and
19	"(C) evaluate the impact of the charter
20	school program, including the impact on student
21	achievement, carried out under this subpart.
22	"(b) Grants.—
23	"(1) In General.—The Secretary shall make
24	grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants
25	for the purpose of carrying out the activities described

1	in section 5202(a)(1), subparagraphs (A) through (C)
2	of section $5203(a)(1)$ , and section $5203(g)$ .
3	"(2) Terms and conditions.—Except as other-
4	wise provided in this subsection, grants awarded
5	under this subsection shall have the same terms and
6	conditions as grants awarded to State entities under
7	section 5203.
8	"(3) Charter management organizations.—
9	The Secretary shall—
10	"(A) use not less than 75 percent of the
11	funds described in subsection (a)(1) to make
12	grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible appli-
13	cants described in paragraph (4)(C); and
14	"(B) notwithstanding paragraphs $(1)(A)$
15	and (2) of section 5203(f)—
16	"(i) award grants to eligible appli-
17	cants on the basis of the quality of the ap-
18	plications submitted under this subsection,
19	and
20	"(ii) in awarding grants to eligible ap-
21	plicants described in paragraph (4)(C), give
22	priority to each such eligible applicant
23	that—
24	"(I) demonstrates a high propor-
25	tion of high-quality charter schools

1	within the network of the eligible ap-
2	plicant;
3	"(II) demonstrates success in serv-
4	ing students who are educationally dis-
5	advantaged;
6	"(III) does not have a significant
7	proportion of charter schools that have
8	been closed, had their charter revoked
9	for compliance issues, or had their af-
10	filiation with such eligible applicant
11	revoked;
12	"(IV) has sufficient procedures in
13	effect to ensure timely closure of low-
14	performing or financially-mismanaged
15	charter schools and clear plans and
16	procedures in effect for the students in
17	such schools to attend other high-qual-
18	ity schools; and
19	"(V) demonstrates success in
20	working with schools identified for im-
21	provement by the State.
22	"(4) Eligible applicant defined.—For pur-
23	poses of this subsection, the term 'eligible applicant'
24	means an eligible applicant (as defined in section
25	5210) that—

1	"(A) desires to open a charter school in—
2	"(i) a State that did not apply for a
3	grant under section 5203; or
4	"(ii) a State that did not receive a
5	grant under section 5203; or
6	"(B) is a charter management organization.
7	"(c) Contracts and Grants.—The Secretary may
8	carry out any of the activities described in this section di-
9	rectly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
10	ments.".
11	SEC. 8. RECORDS TRANSFER.
12	Section 5208 (20 U.S.C. 7221g) is amended—
13	(1) by inserting "as quickly as possible and" be-
14	fore "to the extent practicable"; and
15	(2) by striking "section 602" and inserting "sec-
16	tion 602(14)".
17	SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.
18	Section 5210 (20 U.S.C. 7221i) is amended—
19	(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
20	lows:
21	"(1) Charter school.—The term 'charter
22	school' means a public school that—
23	"(A) in accordance with a specific State
24	statute authorizing the granting of charters to
25	schools, is exempt from significant State or local

1	rules that inhibit the flexible operation and man-
2	agement of public schools, but not from any rules
3	relating to the other requirements of this para-
4	graph;
5	"(B) is created by a developer as a public
6	school, or is adapted by a developer from an ex-
7	isting public school, and is operated under pub-
8	lic supervision and direction;
9	"(C) operates in pursuit of a specific set of
10	educational objectives determined by the school's
11	developer and agreed to by the authorized public
12	chartering agency;
13	"(D) provides a program of elementary or
14	secondary education, or both;
15	"(E) is nonsectarian in its programs, ad-
16	missions policies, employment practices, and all
17	other operations, and is not affiliated with a sec-
18	tarian school or religious institution;
19	"(F) does not charge tuition;
20	"(G) complies with the Age Discrimination
21	Act of 1975, title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
22	1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of
23	1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
24	1973, part B of the Individuals with Disabilities
25	Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities

1	Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and sec-
2	tion 444 of the General Education Provisions
3	Act (20 U.S.C. 1232(g)) (commonly known as
4	the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
5	of 1974');
6	"(H) is a school to which parents choose to
7	send their children, and admits students on the
8	basis of a lottery if more students apply for ad-
9	mission than can be accommodated, except that
10	in cases in which students who are enrolled in
11	a charter school affiliated (such as by sharing a
12	network) with another charter school, those stu-
13	dents may be automatically enrolled in the next
14	grade level at such other charter school, so long
15	as a lottery is used to fill seats created through
16	regular attrition in student enrollment;
17	"(I) agrees to comply with the same Federal
18	and State audit requirements as do other elemen-
19	tary schools and secondary schools in the State,
20	unless such State audit requirements are waived
21	by the State;
22	"(J) meets all applicable Federal, State,
23	and local health and safety requirements;
24	"(K) operates in accordance with State law;

1	"(L) has a written performance contract
2	with the authorized public chartering agency in
3	the State that includes a description of how stu-
4	dent performance will be measured in charter
5	schools pursuant to State assessments that are
6	required of other schools and pursuant to any
7	other assessments mutually agreeable to the au-
8	thorized public chartering agency and the char-
9	ter school; and
10	"(M) may serve prekindergarten or postsec-
11	ondary students.";
12	(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4)
13	as paragraphs (4) through (6), respectively;
14	(3) by inserting after paragraph (1), the fol-
15	lowing:
16	"(2) Charter management organization.—
17	The term 'charter management organization' means a
18	not-for-profit organization that manages a network of
19	charter schools linked by centralized support, oper-
20	ations, and oversight.
21	"(3) Charter school support organiza-
22	TION.—The term 'charter school support organization'
23	means a nonprofit, nongovernmental entity that is
24	not an authorized public chartering agency, which

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provides on a statewide basis—

1	"(A) assistance to developers during the
2	planning, program design, and initial imple-
3	mentation of a charter school; and
4	"(B) technical assistance to charter schools
5	to operate such schools.";
6	(4) in paragraph (5)(B), as so redesignated, by
7	striking "under section 5203(d)(3)"; and
8	(5) by adding at the end the following:
9	"(7) Expanded, High-quality charter
10	SCHOOL.—The term 'expanded, high-quality charter
11	school' means a high-quality charter school that has
12	either significantly increased its enrollment or added
13	one or more grades to its school.
14	"(8) High-quality charter school.—The
15	term 'high-quality charter school' means a charter
16	school that—
17	"(A) shows evidence of strong academic re-
18	sults, which may include strong academic growth
19	as determined by a State;
20	"(B) has no significant issues in the areas
21	of student safety, operational and financial man-
22	agement, or statutory or regulatory compliance;
23	"(C) has demonstrated success in signifi-
24	cantly increasing student academic achievement,
25	including graduation rates where applicable,

1 consistent with the requirements under title I, for 2 all students served by the charter school; and "(D) has demonstrated success in increasing 3 4 student academic achievement, including graduation rates where applicable, for the groups of 5 6 students described insection 7 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II), except that such demonstra-8 tion is not required in a case in which the num-9 ber of students in a group is insufficient to yield 10 statistically reliable information or the results 11 would reveal personally identifiable information 12 about an individual student. 13 "(9) Replicated, HIGH-QUALITY 14 SCHOOL MODEL.—The term 'replicated, high-quality 15 charter school model' means a high-quality charter 16 school that has opened a new campus under an exist-17 ing charter or an additional charter if required by 18 State law.". 19 SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 20 Section 5211 (20 U.S.C. 7221j) is amended to read 21 as follows: 22 "SEC. 5211. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. 23 "There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subpart \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2015 and each of

the 5 succeeding fiscal years.".

## SEC. 11. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS. 2 (a) Repeal.—Subpart 2 of part B of title V (20 U.S.C. 7223 et seq.) is repealed. 4 (b) Table of Contents in 5 section 2 is amended— (1) by striking the item relating to subpart 1 of 6 7 part B of title V and inserting the following: "Subpart 1—Charter School Program"; 8 (2) by striking the item relating to section 5203 9 and inserting the following: "Sec. 5203. Grants to support high-quality charter schools."; 10 (3) by striking the item relating to section 5204 11 and inserting the following: "Sec. 5204. Facilities financing assistance."; and 12 (4) by striking the items relating to subpart 2 of 13 part B of title V.

## Union Calendar No. 312

113TH CONGRESS H. R. 10

[Report No. 113-423]

## A BILL

To amend the charter school program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

April 29, 2014

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed